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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/989,486	11/20/2001	Reeny T. Sebastian	DP-304592/DE3-0214	9883

7590 09/23/2004

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EXAMINER

BROADHEAD, BRIAN J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3661

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/989,486

Applicant(s)

SEBASTIAN ET AL

Examiner

Brian J. Broadhead

Art Unit

3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 12-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1 through 20 are objected to because of the following informalities: In the previous office action an objection was made and it was suggested that --are-- should be inserted after "signals". The line indicated for where the addition should be made was incorrectly based on the originally filed claims where the limitation "signaling a rejection of any of said plurality of signals found to be invalid" occupied both the last and second from last lines of the claim. In the amendment filed 6-22-04, --are-- was inserted in the wrong location since applicant's representative correctly relied on the most recent version of the claims filed 2-10-04. It is suggested that the --are-- inserted in the amendment filed 6-22-04 be removed and instead be inserted in the last line of claim 1. The remaining claims that also contain this limitation should also be treated the same way. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

~~A person shall be entitled to a patent unless—~~

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, and 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hoshi et al., US 2001/0004720 A1.

4. As per claims 1, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20, Hoshi et al. disclose receiving a plurality of signals indicative of the rear steering angle in paragraph 20; checking at least one of said plurality of signals to determine if it falls within a valid range in paragraph 20; correlating at least a first signal of the plurality of signals with at least a second signal of said plurality of signals to determine if either said first signal or said second signal is invalid in paragraph 20; and signaling a rejection of any of said plurality of signals is found to be invalid in paragraph 74.

5. As per claims 12 and 13, Hoshi et al. disclose said plurality of signals comprises a plurality of signal components of a single carrier signal in paragraph 10; providing a single sensor having two signal outputs in paragraph 10.

6. As per claim 14, Hoshi et al. disclose comparing at least one of said plurality of signals with an upper limit and a lower limit in paragraph 56.

7. Claims 1, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Eguchi, 5554969.

8. Eguchi discloses receiving a plurality of signals indicative of the rear steering angle on column 8, lines 25-29; checking at least one of said plurality of signals to determine if it falls within a valid range on lines 5-27, on column 9; correlating at least a first signal of the plurality of signals with at least a second signal of said plurality of signals to determine if either said first signal or said second signal is invalid on lines 16-34, on column 9; and signaling a rejection of any of said plurality of signals is found to be invalid on line 35, on column 35.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, and 11-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Upon further review of the prior art it is clear that Hoshi et al. does disclose signaling a rejection of any of said plurality of signals is found to be invalid. In previous arguments the applicant has stated that Hoshi et al. only disclosed supplying previous versions of the detection signals when the current ones are invalid. This is true in the first embodiment, but not in the second. In paragraph 74, Hoshi et al. discloses that no information is sent to the controller 4 and the controller stops controlling the mechanism 5. This lack of transmission of detection information is a signal that values detected are invalid.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 7-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

11. Claims 2 through 6 are allowed.

12. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record does not disclose comparing said first signal with an expected value at about an inflection point of said second signal; and calculating a steering angle corresponding to one of said first signal and said second signal so as to create a calculated angle; and computing an expected value of the other of said first signal and said second signal in accordance with said calculated angle. The prior art doesn't use a signal to calculate an expected angle and then from that angle calculate

Art Unit: 3661

back to an expected value from another signal. The prior art calculates two angles from two signals and then compared the angles.

13. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

Conclusion

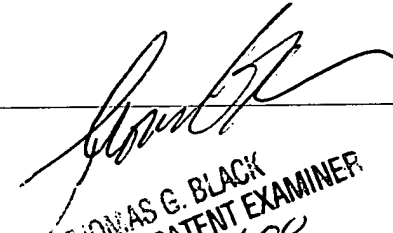
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian J. Broadhead whose telephone number is 703-308-9033. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on 703-305-8233. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.



BJB
September 16, 2004


THOMAS G. BLACK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 3600